

Eastern Region/Vernal Quality Improvement Committee June 5, 2008 @ 10 AM

Attendance:

Paul Smith, DCFS Region Director
Matt Watkins, DCFS Associate Region Director
Katy Larsen, DCFS State Office Administration
Floyd Wyasket
Keith Campbell, UCSO
Beth Murphy, Uintah School District
Debbie Spafford, Ashley Regional Medical Center
Reva Marsh, DWS
Margie Shewell, Justice Court
Dale Smuin, JJS
Joanne Smuin, JJS
Kirk Harris, DCFS Foster Care Supervisor
Cindy Birchell, DCFS

Minutes:

Presentation by Katy Larsen

The goal of QI Committees around the state is to develop resources for youth and families we serve.
The Web Page for QI Committees is: www.utahqic.utah.gov

Challenges to our local area:

1. Youth Drug Court – this was effective and worked well until the money ran out. They were keeping track of the kids who had challenges with drugs before it became an adult addiction.
 - a. Katy Larsen suggested sending a letter to Lisa-Michelle Church, DHS Executive Director.
 - b. The dollar amount we are faced with regards to the Adult Drug Court Program is around \$4,500 per year per person.
2. Domestic Violence – there are a lot of DV cases that come through that are involved with drugs as well.
3. Foster Homes – there are no homes for teenage boys in the Vernal Area. All of those kids have to be sent out of the area.
 - a. Part of what we are seeing is that the degree of crime for the juveniles has definitely risen in recent years.
4. Recruitment and Retention of DCFS Employees – A little media time is a great idea. Recognition is great.
 - a. Something that may help caseworkers would be to assist with the payment of the SSW license fee.

Keith Campbell is working on a Strike Force grant that will assist the Strike Force to better deal with the drug problem in our area. 72% of the cases that they deal with are either involved with Drugs or the combination of Drugs and DV.

There was a lengthy discussion about how the local hospital receives Paid Time Off (PTO) and the differences between there system and the state system. Educators also have a much

different personal leave system than the DCFS employees. Educators receive 15 cents on the dollar at retirement. Dena Mansfield would be the person to talk to at the hospital.

Keith Campbell talked about the difficulty Uintah County had in hiring dispatchers. They worked out an agreement where they are able to pay dispatchers here in Uintah County a higher wage for the time being (during the oil boom). If and or when the boom quits then the dispatchers will return to the step/wage that all of the other dispatchers around the state are being paid. Joe McKay would be the person to talk to at Uintah County.

Next Meeting Agenda:

1. Letter to Lisa- Michelle Church
2. Family Drug Court
3. Retention Plans
 - a. Laonna Davis – Presentation
4. Good SCF Parents are needed.
 - a. Presentation by Sue Howe or Faith Spencer

Date to Meet Next:
Thursday, July 10, 2008 @ 11 AM
Lunch Provided!